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24 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Administration)

FROM : Emergency Planning Officer

SUBJECT : Meeting of the Interagency Committee on  
National Censorship Planning Held on  
21 January 1955

1. The first meeting of the subject committee was held on 21 January 1955, with agencies represented as follows:

Mr. John Goodyear Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary	State
Mr. Nils A. Lennartson Assistant to the Secretary	Treasury
Mr. Walter D. Swan Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs	Defense
Mr. Walter Yeagley First Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General Internal Security Division	Justice
Mr. Abe McGregor Goff Solicitor of the Department	Post Office Dept.
Mr. Donald R. Burgess Director, Publications Management	Commerce
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Mr. Charles E. Pearce Director, Office of Public Affairs	FCDA
Mr. Edward M. Webster Commissioner	FCC

2. Lieutenant General Willard S. Paul, Assistant to the Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization, acted as chairman. He introduced Mr. Byron Price, Director of the Office of Censorship during

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World War II, and Colonel Dargusch, technical censorship planner of ODM.

3. The meeting was addressed to a statement of the terms of reference of the committee, a review of past planning, and an analysis of present and future planning. Along this line it was pointed out that present plans call for the Office of Naval Intelligence to undertake initial responsibility for telecommunications censorship in the event of war, and G-2 of the Army to assume initial responsibility for postal and other surface communications censorship, assisted by A-2 of the Air Force. Press censorship will be governed by a voluntary code of the industry, as was done in World War II. The Services will relinquish jurisdiction of telecommunications and postal censorship within a period of not to exceed one year from the outbreak of an emergency, following which censorship operations will be continued by a civilian censorship organization comparable to the Office of Censorship in World War II. This organization will commence phasing in as soon as possible after the onset of the emergency.

4. It was emphasized that the objective of national censorship is identified solely with the effort to win the war. Censorship will be used only to gather information necessary to the prosecution or defense of a war and, conversely, to deny similar information to the enemy. It will not, for instance, be invoked in aid of civil criminal proceedings or to suppress or masquerade blunders of the Government.

5. At the conclusion of the meeting General Paul announced the formation of the Watch List Sub-Group consisting of the representatives on the committee from the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, the Office of Defense Mobilization, and the Central Intelligence Agency, with the Defense representative to act as Sub-Group chairman.

6. It was decided that the Watch List Sub-Group will address itself to formulating the list of names (and the keeping of such list current at all times) of persons whom the agencies wish to have placed upon the Watch List, and accorded the special treatment therein involved by the Office of Censorship. In this connection it should be remembered that the communications of persons named on the Watch List are subjected to complete censorship, including the processes for detection of codes and ciphers, and secret inks, if such be deemed advisable. It was pointed out that the compilation of the Watch

  
mediately following the meeting Colonel Dargusch suggested to me that

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our Agency might also be interested in arranging, through the medium of the Watch List, to insure that communications between certain persons would not be subjected to censorship.

7. The next meeting will be held at the call of the chairman in approximately one month's time.



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